UNITED NATIONS **A**

General Assembly

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A/RES/50/108
9 February 1996

Fiftieth session
Agenda item 95 (j)

RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[on the report of the Second Committee (A/50/617/Add.10)]

50/108. United Nations initiative on opportunity and participation

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 48/60 of 14 December 1993 and its decision 49/434 of 19 December 1994 on a United Nations initiative on opportunity and participation,

Reaffirming that one of the fundamental prerequisites of the achievement of sustainable development is broad-based public participation in decision-making,

Acknowledging the relevance of opportunity and participation in the economic and social development agenda of the United Nations, as reflected in the various international conferences and agreements related to the follow-up of the Rio process,

Commending the South Pacific Forum Vision Statement, 1/ adopted by the Twenty-sixth South Pacific Forum, held at Madang, Papua New Guinea, from 13 to 15 September 1995, which promotes opportunities for international and regional cooperation leading to growth with equity, broad-based participation and capacity-building for self-reliance,

Noting that the United Nations Panel on Opportunity and Participation met at United Nations Headquarters from 15 to 19 May 1995,

1. Welcomes the report of the United Nations Panel on Opportunity and

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1/ A/50/475, annex, appendix II.

Participation; 2/

2. Takes note of the Panel's contribution to the completion of an agenda for development and the follow-up arrangements to the World Summit for Social Development, held at Copenhagen from 6 to 12 March 1995;

3. Invites Member States and relevant organizations and agencies of the United Nations system to consider the insights and the recommendations of the Panel, particularly the sections of its report related to the efforts to be made for the development of small and medium-sized enterprises in developing countries as an effective measure for promoting opportunity and participation in the context of national development and the economic and social development of all peoples;

4. Invites the Commission for Sustainable Development, in the overall framework of trade, environment and sustainable development, alleviating poverty and promoting sustainable agriculture and rural development and small-scale fisheries development, to draw upon the work of the Panel;

5. Invites the Committee for Development Planning, in accordance with its mandate, to take into account the recommendations of the Panel in its work in 1996 in the context of the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade; 3/

6. Encourages the relevant agencies and organizations of the United Nations system, in particular the United Nations Development Programme and the regional commissions, to increase their efforts to promote opportunity and participation, and to develop those concepts and incorporate them into their strategies and programmes, including regional and national workshops and seminars;

7. Invites Member States and international organizations to make voluntary contributions to these efforts;

8. Encourages support for the widest possible dissemination of the report of the Panel to the international community.

96th plenary meeting
20 December 1995

2/ A/50/501, annex. See also A/50/501/Add.1.

3/ Resolution 45/199, annex.

UNITED NATIONS **A**

General Assembly

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A/RES/50/109
9 February 1996

Fiftieth session
Agenda item 95 (k)

RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[on the report of the Second Committee (A/50/617/Add.11)]

50/109. World Food Summit

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the inalienable right to be free from hunger and malnutrition, as proclaimed in the Universal Declaration on the Eradication of Hunger and Malnutrition, 1/

Conscious that, despite the progress that has been made in ensuring global food availability, eight hundred million people remain chronically undernourished and about two hundred million children under age five suffer from protein and energy deficiencies,

Convinced of the urgent need, at the highest political level, to marshal the global consensus and commitment required for the eradication of hunger and malnutrition and the achievement of food security for all, through the adoption of concerted policies and a plan of action for implementation by Governments, international institutions and all sectors of civil society,

Recalling the contributions to international consensus achieved by the World Food Conference 2/ in 1974, the World Summit for Children 3/ in

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1/ Report of the World Food Conference, Rome, 5-16 November 1974 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.75.II.A.3), chap. I.

2/ See Report of the World Food Conference, Rome, 5-16 November 1974 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.75.II.A.3).

3/ See First Call for Children (New York, United Nations Children's Fund, 1990).

1990, the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development 4/ and the International Conference on Nutrition 5/ in 1992, the International Conference on Population and Development 6/ in 1994, and the World Summit for Social Development 7/ and the Fourth World Conference on Women 8/ in 1995, as well as the agreements made at other international conferences and summits in recent years,

Recognizing that activities to ensure food security at all levels should be carried out within the framework of sustainable development, as defined in Agenda 21, 9/ and that the World Food Summit will give due attention to the multifaceted nature of food security,

Bearing in mind the proposal of the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations that the Summit should not call for new funding mechanisms or institutions,

1. Welcomes the decision of the Conference of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations at its twenty-eighth session to convene the World Food Summit at Rome from 13 to 17 November 1996 at the level of heads of State or Government;

2. Invites Governments to participate actively in Summit preparations and to be represented at the level of heads of State or Government;

3. Invites all relevant United Nations and other intergovernmental organizations, including international and regional financial institutions, as well as non-governmental organizations and the private sector, to cooperate actively with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in preparing for the Summit;

4/ See Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992 (A/CONF.151/26/Rev.1 (Vol. I and Vol. I/Corr.1, Vol. II, Vol. III and Vol. III/Corr.1)) (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), vol. I : Resolutions Adopted by the Conference, resolution 1, annexes I-III.

5/ See International Conference on Nutrition, Rome, December 1992, Final Report of the Conference and World Declaration and Plan of Action for Nutrition (Rome, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, 1992).

6/ See Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5-13 September 1994 (A/CONF.171/13) (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18).

7/ See A/CONF.166/9.

8/ See A/CONF.177/20 and Add.1.

9/ See Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992 (A/CONF.151/26/Rev.1 (Vol. I and Vol. I/Corr.1, Vol. II, Vol. III and Vol. III/Corr.1)) (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), vol. I: Resolutions Adopted by the Conference, resolution 1, annex II.

4. Invites the international community to make contributions on a voluntary basis to the special trust fund established by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in order to facilitate the preparations for and the holding of the Summit as well as to facilitate the preparations for effective participation of representatives of developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, both at the sessions of the Committee on World Food Security of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to be held in January and September 1996 as preparatory meetings and at the Summit itself;

5. Invites the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to submit to the General Assembly, at its fifty-second session, through the Economic and Social Council, a report on the outcome of the Summit, including actions to be taken to follow up the outcome of the Summit at all appropriate levels.

96th plenary meeting
20 December 1995

UNITED NATIONS **A**

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A/RES/50/110
9 February 1996

Fiftieth session
Agenda item 96

RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[on the report of the Second Committee (A/50/618/Add.6)]

50/110. Report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 2997 (XXVII) of 15 December 1972, in which it decided to establish the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme,

Recalling also its resolution 47/191 of 22 December 1992, in which it endorsed the recommendations on international institutional arrangements to follow up the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, as contained in chapter 38 of Agenda 21, 1/ in which, inter alia, the need for a strengthened role for the United Nations Environment Programme and its Governing Council was stressed and priority areas on which the Programme should concentrate were elaborated,

Having considered the report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its eighteenth session, 2/ the report of the Secretary-General on the strengthening of the Programme, 3/ the note by

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1/ Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992 (A/CONF.151/26/Rev.1 (Vol. I and Vol. I/Corr.1, Vol. II, Vol. III and Vol. III/Corr.1)) (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), vol. I: Resolutions Adopted by the Conference, resolution 1, annex II.

2/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Fiftieth Session, Supplement No. 25 (A/50/25).

3/ A/50/171.

the Secretary-General on the activities of the Programme in environmental monitoring, 4/ and the note by the Secretary-General on international conventions and protocols in the field of the environment, 5/

1. Endorses the report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its eighteenth session 2/ and the decisions contained therein; 6/

2. Recognizes, in particular, Governing Council decisions 18/1 on the role and priorities of the United Nations Environment Programme, 18/5 on the in-depth evaluation of the programme on environment and 18/7 on environment and sustainable development, all of 26 May 1995, and decision 18/10 of 25 May 1995 on good environmental housekeeping within the United Nations system; 6/

3. Requests the Governing Council to prepare a report on the role and activities of the United Nations Environment Programme in the implementation of Agenda 21, in accordance with its mandate, and to submit that report to the General Assembly at its special session on the overall review and appraisal of the implementation of Agenda 21;

4. Notes the importance of sufficient and timely contributions to the Environment Fund, and calls upon Governments to make contributions in a timely fashion in order to allow for the full and effective implementation of the work programmes;

5. Welcomes the efforts of the United Nations Environment Programme to promote maximum and cost-effective utilization of the conference facilities at its headquarters at Nairobi, and calls upon Governments and relevant intergovernmental bodies to support such efforts to ensure optimum utilization of the capacity of all United Nations conference facilities;

6. Requests the Secretary-General to inform the General Assembly at its fifty-second session on the implementation of the present resolution.

96th plenary meeting
20 December 1995

4/ A/50/371.

5/ A/C.2/50/2.

6/ See Official Records of the General Assembly, Fiftieth Session, Supplement No. 25 (A/50/25), annex.

UNITED NATIONS **A**

General Assembly

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A/RES/50/111
16 February 1996

Fiftieth session
Agenda item 96 (a)

RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[on the report of the Second Committee (A/50/618/Add.1)]

50/111. Convention on Biological Diversity

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its resolutions 49/117 on the Convention on Biological Diversity and 49/119 on the International Day for Biological Diversity, of 19 December 1994,

Recalling the Convention on Biological Diversity, 1/

Recalling also Agenda 21, 2/ particularly its chapter 15 on the conservation of biological diversity, and related chapters,

Recalling further the recommendations made at the third session of the Commission on Sustainable Development on the review of chapter 15 of Agenda 21 on the conservation of biological diversity, 3/

1/ See United Nations Environment Programme, Convention on Biological Diversity (Environmental Law and Institution Programme Activity Centre), June 1992.

2/ Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992 (A/CONF.151/26/Rev.1 (Vol. I and Vol. I/Corr.1, Vol. II, Vol. III and Vol. III/Corr.1)) (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), vol. I: Resolutions Adopted by the Conference, resolution 1, annex II.

3/ See Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1995, Supplement No. 12 (E/1995/32), chap. I, para. 230 (i).

Deeply concerned by the continuing loss of the world's biological diversity and, on the basis of the provisions of the Convention, reiterating the commitment to the conservation of biological diversity, and the sustainable use of its components, as well as the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of genetic resources,

1. Welcomes the results of the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, held at Nassau from 28 November to 9 December 1994, as reflected in the report of the Executive Secretary of the Convention, 4/ submitted in accordance with paragraph 4 of General Assembly resolution 49/117;

2. Takes note that the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity has decided to accept the offer of the Government of Canada to host the secretariat of the Convention, and expresses its appreciation for the support offered by the Canadian authorities to ensure the effective functioning of the secretariat;

3. Also takes note of the results of the first meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, held at the headquarters of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in Paris from 4 to 8 September 1995, including its medium-term programme of work for 1996-1997 and its contribution to the Open-ended Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Panel on Forests of the Commission on Sustainable Development;

4. Calls upon those States that have not yet ratified the Convention to expedite their internal procedures of ratification, acceptance or approval;

5. Invites the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity to report, through the Economic and Social Council, to the General Assembly at its fifty-first session on the results of the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, held at Jakarta from 6 to 17 November 1995, and also invites the Secretary to make the reports of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention available to the Commission on Sustainable Development.

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20 December 1995

4/ A/50/218.

UNITED NATIONS **A**

General Assembly

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A/RES/50/112
16 February 1996

Fiftieth session
Agenda item 96 (a)

RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[on the report of the Second Committee (A/50/618/Add.1)]

50/112. Elaboration of an international convention to combat desertification in those countries experiencing serious drought and/or desertification, particularly in Africa

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 44/172 of 19 December 1989 and 44/228 of 22 December 1989 and its other relevant resolutions and decisions, and the recommendations made in Agenda 21, 1/ adopted by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development,

Recalling also its resolution 47/188 of 22 December 1992, by which it decided to establish the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for the Elaboration of an International Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa,

Recalling further its resolution 49/234 of 23 December 1994, in which it decided that the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee should continue to function in order, inter alia, to prepare for the first session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, as specified in the United

1/ See Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992 (A/CONF.151/26/Rev. 1 (Vol. I and Vol. I/Corr.1, Vol. II, Vol. III and Vol. III/Corr.1) (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), vol. I: Resolutions Adopted by the Conference, resolution 1, annex II.

Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa, 2/

Having considered the reports of the Secretary-General on the implementation of resolution 49/234 3/ and on possible requirements for intergovernmental and secretariat work on the implementation of the Convention and its regional implementation annexes, 4/ and having also considered Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee resolution 7/1 of 17 August 1995 5/ on dates and venue of the sessions of the Committee during the period up to and including the first session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention,

Expressing its concern about the present level of the Special Voluntary Fund for participation in the negotiation process of developing countries affected by desertification and drought, in particular the least developed countries,

Noting that the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee has established two working groups in order to be able to discharge its responsibilities in the preparation for the first session of the Conference of Parties to the Convention,

Expressing its concern about the present level of the Trust Fund, established pursuant to its resolution 47/188, to support the work of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee and the interim secretariat,

Considering that the Convention is one of the main steps in the implementation and follow-up to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development,

1. Welcomes the signing of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa, 2/ by a large number of States and one regional economic integration organization and the ratification of the Convention by a growing number of States, and urges States that have not yet signed or ratified the Convention to do so, so that it may enter into force as soon as possible;

2. Decides that the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for the Elaboration of an International Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa, shall continue to prepare for the first session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention as specified in the Convention;

3. Also decides, for this purpose, to convene two sessions of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee in 1996, each of up to two weeks'

2/ A/49/84/Add.2, annex, appendix II.

3/ A/50/515.

4/ A/50/347.

5/ See A/50/74/Add.1, annex, appendix II.

duration, the eighth session to be held at Geneva from 5 to 16 February and the ninth session in New York from 3 to 13 September;

4. Further decides to convene the tenth session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee, which is to be held in New York from 6 to 17 January 1997 and, pending the entry into force of the Convention, to convene, as necessary, a further session of the Committee in 1997, of up to two weeks' duration, the exact dates and venue of which shall be determined at a later stage;

5. Recommends that, upon the entry into force of the Convention, a session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention be convened in the second and third weeks of June 1997 or, alternatively, in the second and third weeks of August 1997, the exact dates and venue of the session to be determined at a later stage;

6. Requests all countries, the United Nations system, including the regional commissions, relevant subregional and regional organizations, appropriate scientific and business communities, trade unions, relevant non-governmental organizations and other interested groups, to take action for the prompt implementation of the Convention and its relevant regional implementation annexes 6/ upon its entry into force and in this regard to respond effectively to the needs in the African, Asian and Latin American and Caribbean regions;

7. Urges all countries, the United Nations system, including the regional commissions, relevant subregional and regional organizations and all other relevant actors to undertake actions and measures for the full and effective implementation of the provisions of Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee resolution 5/1 of 17 June 1994 on urgent action for Africa, 7/ as well as to promote actions for other affected developing countries and regions, and invites all States to continue to communicate to the interim secretariat of the Convention, in addition to the information they have already provided, information on actions undertaken and/or envisaged for the implementation of the provisions of resolution 5/1;

8. Decides that the work of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee and the interim secretariat shall continue to be funded through existing United Nations budgetary resources, without negatively affecting its programmed activities, and through voluntary contributions to the Trust Fund established pursuant to General Assembly resolution 47/188 specifically for that purpose and administered by the head of the interim secretariat under the authority of the Secretary-General, with the possibility of using the Fund, as appropriate, to support the participation of representatives of non-governmental organizations in the work of the Committee and of carrying over resources contributed from one fiscal year to the other;

9. Urges States, regional economic integration organizations and other interested organizations to reinforce the capacity of the interim secretariat of the Convention through substantial contributions to the Trust Fund;

6/ A/49/84/Add.2, annex, appendix II, annexes I-IV.

7/ See A/49/84/Add.2, annex, appendix III, sect. A.

10. Renews its appeals to Governments, regional economic integration organizations and other interested organizations, including non-governmental organizations, to make early contributions to the Special Voluntary Fund in order to ensure an enhanced effective participation in the negotiation process of developing countries affected by desertification and/or drought, in particular the least developed countries;

11. Notes the arrangements and contributions made by the Secretary-General and relevant organizations active in the fields of desertification, drought and development, including the United Nations Development Programme/Office to Combat Desertification and Drought, 8/ the United Nations Environment Programme, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the World Bank, as regards the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee and the interim secretariat in the conduct of their mandate, and invites them to intensify and expand such support and collaboration in the future, as appropriate;

12. Also notes the arrangements concluded between the interim secretariat of the Convention and the International Fund for Agricultural Development and the World Meteorological Organization, whereby appropriate actions are taken for an active collaboration and support of activities at the national and regional levels in affected developing countries, in particular those in Africa, and the least developed countries;

13. Requests the Chairman of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to submit progress reports on the work of the Committee to the General Assembly, the Commission on Sustainable Development and other appropriate bodies of the United Nations;

14. Requests the Secretary-General to bring the present resolution to the attention of all Governments, the relevant specialized agencies and programmes of the United Nations, international financial institutions, other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and other relevant institutions;

15. Also requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-first session a report on the implementation of the present resolution relative to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa, under the item entitled "Implementation of decisions and recommendations of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development".

96th plenary meeting
20 December 1995

8/ Formerly, United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office (UNSO). The acronym UNSO is retained with the new name.

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16 February 1996

Fiftieth session
Agenda item 96 (a)

RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[on the report of the Second Committee (A/50/618/Add.1)]

50/113. Special session for the purpose of an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of Agenda 21

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 47/190 of 22 December 1992, in which it decided to convene a special session, not later than 1997, for the purpose of an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of Agenda 21, 1/

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General containing proposals on the format, scope and organizational aspects of such a special session, 2/

1. Decides to convene the special session envisaged in resolution 47/190 for a duration of one week during the month of June 1997 at the highest possible level of participation;

2. Encourages participants at the high-level meeting of the Commission on Sustainable Development to be held during its fourth session, in 1996, to address, inter alia, matters related to the special session of the General Assembly decided on above;

1/ Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992 (A/CONF.151/26/Rev.1 (Vol. I and Vol. I/Corr.1, Vol. II, Vol. III and Vol. III/Corr.1)) (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), vol. I: Resolutions Adopted by the Conference, resolution 1, annex II.

2/ A/50/453.

3. Invites the Commission to devote its Ad Hoc Open-ended Inter-Sessional Working Group meeting, to be held in February 1997, to assisting the Commission in undertaking the review for the special session;

4. Welcomes the decision of the Commission to devote its fifth session, in 1997, to preparations for the special session, and decides that that session of the Commission will be open-ended in its deliberations, allowing for the full participation of all States;

5. Invites the Commission to make available to the General Assembly at the special session all relevant reports prepared under the aegis of the Commission, along with the recommendations of the Commission thereon;

6. Welcomes the decisions of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme, in which the Council emphasized the need for the Programme, in accordance with its mandate in the implementation of Agenda 21, to continue to provide effective support to the work of the Commission on Sustainable Development, and in which the Council decided to hold its nineteenth session early in 1997 with a view to making a contribution to the special session;

7. Invites Governments as well as relevant regional and subregional organizations to consider undertaking reviews of progress achieved since the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development at the national, subregional, regional and interregional levels with a view to contributing to the preparations for the special session;

8. Welcomes the preparation of hemispheric, regional and subregional conferences on sustainable development, and in that context invites the Governments concerned to contribute to the special session the outcomes of such conferences;

9. Also invites all other relevant organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, including the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the specialized agencies and other multilateral organizations, including the multilateral financial institutions and the World Trade Organization, to contribute to the special session, and requests the Inter-Agency Committee on Sustainable Development, in close coordination with the Commission on Sustainable Development, to ensure an effective and coordinated system-wide response to the preparation of the special session;

10. Further invites the conferences of parties or other regulatory bodies of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Convention on Biological Diversity and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa, as well as the regulatory bodies of other relevant instruments, as appropriate, and the Global Environment Facility, to provide their inputs to the special session;

11. Recognizes the important role played by major groups, including non-governmental organizations, at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and in the implementation of its recommendations, and recognizes the need for their active involvement in preparations for the special session, as well as the need to ensure appropriate arrangements for their contribution during the special session;

12. Invites Governments to assist the developing countries, in particular the least developed among them, in participating fully and effectively in the special session and its preparatory process, and in that regard invites them to make appropriate contributions to the Trust Fund to Support the Work of the Commission on Sustainable Development;

13. Requests the Secretary-General to prepare, for the consideration of the Commission on Sustainable Development at its fifth session, a comprehensive report containing an overall assessment of the progress achieved since the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in the implementation of Agenda 21 at all levels, 1/ and in the implementation of related outcomes, as well as recommendations for future actions and priorities, and requests that the report include:

(a) Concise reports containing an assessment of the progress achieved in specific sectoral and cross-sectoral areas;

(b) Country profiles providing a concise presentation of progress made and constraints encountered in implementing Agenda 21 at the national level, compiled on the basis of national information received and in close cooperation with the Governments concerned;

(c) Major and emerging trends and issues within the framework of Agenda 21 and related outcomes of the Conference in the area of sustainable development, including the environmental impact of activities that are gravely hazardous to the environment, taking into account the views of States;

(d) Recommendations on the future role of the Commission in the follow-up to the outcome of the Conference and related outcomes, building on experience gained since 1992;

14. Requests the Secretary-General to mount a public information programme to raise global awareness of both the special session to review the implementation of Agenda 21 and the work undertaken by the United Nations in the follow-up to the Conference;

15. Decides that the preparations for the special session and the special session itself shall be kept within the agreed appropriation level for the 1996-1997 biennium;

16. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-first session a sub-item entitled "Special session for the purpose of an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of Agenda 21", and requests the Secretary-General to submit to it at that session a progress report on the state of preparations for the 1997 special session.

96th plenary meeting
20 December 1995

UNITED NATIONS **A**

General Assembly

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A/RES/50/114
16 February 1996

Fiftieth session
Agenda item 96 (b)

RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[on the report of the Second Committee (A/50/618/Add.2)]

50/114. Desertification and drought

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 48/175 of 21 December 1993 in which it recalled the decisions of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development set forth in chapter 12 of Agenda 21, 1/ entitled "Managing fragile ecosystems: combating desertification and drought", and took note of the recommendation contained in paragraph 38.27 of Agenda 21 and of decision 93/33 of 18 June 1993 of the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme, 2/

Noting the work being undertaken by the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for the Elaboration of an International Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa,

Referring to its resolution 48/175, in which it recalled the appeals to the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Environment Programme to continue and strengthen their cooperation in combating

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1/ See Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992 (A/CONF.151/26/Rev.1 (Vol. I and Vol. I/Corr.1, Vol. II, Vol. III and Vol. III/Corr.1)) (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), vol. I: Resolutions Adopted by the Conference, resolution 1, annex II.

2/ See Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1993, Supplement No. 15 (E/1993/35), annex I.

desertification, notably through support for the Office to Combat Desertification and Drought 3/ by the joint venture programme,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of its resolution 48/175, 4/

Expressing its concern at the present level of resources available to relevant United Nations bodies, including the Office to Combat Desertification and Drought of the United Nations Development Programme, to support activities to combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought in all affected developing countries and regions,

1. Welcomes the efforts made by the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Development Programme to strengthen their cooperation in combating desertification through the United Nations Environment Programme/United Nations Development Programme partnership to combat desertification;

2. Renews its appeal to Governments, regional economic integration organizations and other interested organizations, as well as non-governmental organizations, to make contributions to relevant United Nations bodies, including the Office to Combat Desertification and Drought of the United Nations Development Programme, to strengthen their capacity to support activities to combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought in all affected developing countries and regions;

3. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session a report on the implementation of the present resolution, which would be considered under one unified sub-item on the agenda entitled "Implementation of decisions and recommendations of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development", under the item entitled "Environment and sustainable development".

96th plenary meeting
20 December 1995

3/ Formerly, United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office (UNSO). The acronym UNSO is retained with the new name.

4/ A/50/347.

UNITED NATIONS **A**

General Assembly

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A/RES/50/115
16 February 1996

Fiftieth session
Agenda item 96 (d)

RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[on the report of the Second Committee (A/50/618/Add.3)]

50/115. Protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 45/212 of 21 December 1990, 46/169 of 19 December 1991, 47/195 of 22 December 1992, 48/189 of 21 December 1993 and 49/120 of 19 December 1994,

Noting with satisfaction that a large number of States and one regional economic integration organization have ratified the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change 1/ and calling upon other States to take appropriate action to that end,

Noting that, in accordance with paragraphs 1 and 2 of General Assembly resolution 48/189, the first session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change was convened from 28 March to 7 April 1995 in Berlin, and that it was attended by one hundred and sixteen of the then one hundred and eighteen Parties to the Convention, as well as by a large number of governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental observers,

Expressing its deep appreciation to the Government of Germany for the generous manner in which it hosted the first session of the Conference of the Parties,

Looking forward to the ongoing work of the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies in addressing climate change within the framework of the

1/ A/AC.237/18 (Part II)/Add.1 and Corr.1, annex I.

Convention and to the successful conclusion of the Berlin Mandate 2/ process at the third session of the Conference of the Parties,

Noting the important scientific contribution of the World Meteorological Organization/United Nations Environment Programme Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change to the Convention process and looking forward to the completion of its second assessment report,

Recognizing the contribution to the Convention process of the interim secretariat of the Convention, within the framework of the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development of the Secretariat, as well as the support provided to that secretariat by the World Meteorological Organization, the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the United Nations Development Programme and bilateral contributors,

Taking note of the advice of the Secretary-General on an institutional linkage for the secretariat of the Convention with the United Nations, including the procedures indicated therein for the application of the Financial Regulations and the Staff Regulations and Staff Rules of the United Nations and for the appointment and accountability of the head of that secretariat, 3/

Taking note also of the decision of the Conference of the Parties, 4/ on the basis of the advice of the Secretary-General, that the Convention secretariat shall be institutionally linked to the United Nations, while not being fully integrated into the work programme and management structure of any particular department or programme,

Taking note further of the financial procedures for the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, its subsidiary bodies and its permanent secretariat adopted at its first session, 5/ whereby, inter alia, the Secretary-General is asked to establish trust funds for the purposes of the Convention, to be managed by the head of the Convention secretariat in accordance with duly delegated authority,

Taking note further of the decision of the Conference of the Parties 4/ whereby the General Assembly is requested, bearing in mind the institutional linkage of the Convention secretariat to the United Nations and the large number of States that are Parties to the Convention, to decide to finance from the regular programme budget of the United Nations the conference-servicing costs arising from sessions of the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies for the duration of the institutional linkage mentioned above,

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2/ FCCC/CP/1995/7/Add.1, decision 1/CP.1.

3/ See A/AC.237/79/Add.1; FCCC/CP/1995/5/Add.4; and A/50/716, para. 49.

4/ FCCC/CP/1995/7/Add.1, decision 14/CP.1.

5/ Ibid., decision 15/CP.1, annex I.

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 49/120, with particular reference to the implications arising from the report of the Conference of the Parties on its first session, 6/

1. Takes note with appreciation of:

(a) The report of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee on a Framework Convention on Climate Change on its eleventh session; 7/

(b) The final report prepared on behalf of the Committee, by its Chairman, on the completion of the Committee's work; 8/

(c) The report of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on its first session 9/ and its presentation on behalf of the President of the Conference;

2. Endorses the institutional linkage between the Convention secretariat and the United Nations, as advised by the Secretary-General and adopted by the Conference of the Parties; 4/

3. Requests the Secretary-General to review the functioning of this institutional linkage not later than 31 December 1999, in consultation with the Conference of the Parties, with a view to making such modifications as may be considered desirable by both parties and to report thereon to the General Assembly;

4. Notes that the Conference of the Parties has decided to accept the offer of the Government of Germany to host the Convention secretariat 10/ and expresses its appreciation for the support offered by the future host Government for the relocation and effective functioning of the Convention secretariat;

5. Notes with appreciation contributions made to the extrabudgetary funds established under paragraphs 10 and 20 of General Assembly resolution 45/212, and maintained in accordance with its resolution 47/195;

6. Urges Member States that are Parties to the Convention to pay promptly and in full for each of the years 1996 and 1997, in accordance with the indicative scale adopted by consensus by the Conference of the Parties, 11/ the contributions required for the trust fund for the core budget of the Convention envisaged in paragraph 13 of its financial

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6/ A/50/716.

7/ A/AC.237/91 and Add.1.

8/ A/50/536, annex.

9/ FCCC/CP/1995/7 and Add.1.

10/ FCCC/CP/1995/7/Add.1, decision 16/CP.1.

11/ Ibid., decision 15/CP.1, annex II.

procedures, so as to ensure continuity in the cash flow required to finance the ongoing work of the Conference of the Parties, the subsidiary bodies and the Convention secretariat;

7. Calls upon Member States that are Parties to the Convention to also contribute generously to the trust fund for participation in the Convention process envisaged in paragraph 15 of its financial procedures, as well as to the trust funds envisaged for supplementary activities under the Convention; 12/

8. Decides to include in the calendar of conferences and meetings for 1996-1997 the sessions of the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies envisaged for that biennium entailing twelve weeks of conference-servicing facilities;

9. Requests the Secretary-General to make the necessary arrangements to include in the calendar of conferences and meetings for the biennium 1998-1999 those sessions of the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies that the Conference may need to convene in that period;

10. Takes note of the transitional arrangement for administrative support to the Convention secretariat, outlined in the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 49/120, with particular reference to the implications arising from the report of the Conference of the Parties, on its first session, 13/ which should facilitate the establishment and relocation of the Convention secretariat and assist it in addressing any initial financial and personnel problems that may be encountered within this context, and also takes note of the financing arrangements contained in paragraphs 8 and 9 above, and requests the Secretary-General to review these arrangements towards the end of the biennium 1996-1997 and to report upon the results of this review to the Assembly at its fifty-second session;

11. Notes that the Secretary-General intends:

(a) To transfer the end-1995 balance in the trust fund for the negotiating process established under paragraph 20 of General Assembly resolution 45/212 into the trust fund for the core budget of the Convention envisaged in paragraph 13 of its financial procedures;

(b) To transfer the end-1995 balance in the special voluntary fund for participation in the negotiating process established under paragraph 10 of the same resolution into the trust fund for participation in the Convention process envisaged in paragraph 15 of the aforementioned financial procedures;

12. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-first session on the implementation of the present resolution;

12/ Ibid., decision 15/CP.1, annex I, and decision 18/CP.1.

13/ A/50/716, paras. 36-38.

13. **Decides** to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-first session the item entitled "Protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind".

96th plenary meeting
20 December 1995

UNITED NATIONS **A**

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/RES/50/116
16 February 1996

Fiftieth session
Agenda item 96 (e)

RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[on the report of the Second Committee (A/50/618/Add.4)]

50/116. Implementation of the outcome of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 49/122 of 19 December 1994 on the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,

Recalling also its resolution 49/100 of 19 December 1994 on specific measures in favour of island developing countries,

Reaffirming that, because the development options of small island developing States are limited, there are special challenges to devising and implementing sustainable development plans, and that small island developing States will be constrained in meeting such challenges without the cooperation of the international community,

1. Takes notes with appreciation of the report of the Secretary-General 1/ on action taken by the organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to implement the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, 2/ and welcomes in particular the action that has been taken by the Department for Policy Coordination and

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1/ A/50/422 and Add.1.

2/ Report of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Bridgetown, Barbados, 25 April-6 May 1994 (A/CONF.167/9 and Corr.1 and 2) (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.I.18 and corrigenda), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

Sustainable Development of the United Nations Secretariat to support the system-wide implementation of the Programme of Action;

2. Notes the establishment of the Small Island Developing States Unit within the above-mentioned Department, and requests the Secretary-General to maintain the level of staffing and the structure and organization of the Unit in accordance with General Assembly resolution 49/122;

3. Welcomes the action that has been taken to enable the regional commissions to support activities to coordinate the outcome of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States;

4. Takes note of the interim measures that have been instituted to strengthen the capacity of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to enable it to complement the functions of the above-mentioned Department with respect to the implementation of the Programme of Action, and requests the Secretary-General to implement fully the relevant provisions of General Assembly resolution 49/122;

5. Calls upon Governments, as well as the organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, other intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations, to continue to implement fully all the commitments and recommendations that were made at the Global Conference, and to continue to take the action necessary for effective follow-up to the Programme of Action, including action to ensure the provision of the means of implementation under chapter XV thereof;

6. Welcomes, in particular, the progress made by the United Nations Development Programme in implementing General Assembly resolution 49/122, and invites the Programme to continue to implement all the provisions of both the technical assistance programme and the information network for small island developing States, as appropriate;

7. Takes note of the support that has been provided by the Commission on Sustainable Development 3/ to following up the implementation of the Programme of Action in accordance with General Assembly resolution 49/122 and the Programme of Action itself, and invites the Commission at its fourth session to consider giving due attention to small island developing States in the national presentations on coastal zone management;

8. Notes the initial action that has been taken by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and by the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development in preparation for the high-level panel that is being convened to discuss the challenges faced by island developing countries, particularly in the area of external trade, and invites the Conference and the Department to complete their arrangements in time for the fourth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development, and to make the report of the panel available to the Conference at its ninth session;

9. Requests the Secretary-General to ensure that the Small Island Developing States Unit of the above-mentioned Department include in its work programme, along with an indication of the resources of its activities and

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3/ See Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1995, Supplement No. 12 (E/1995/32).

programmes, provision for the development and compilation of a vulnerability index for small island developing States, to be prepared in collaboration with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and other relevant organizations;

10. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session a report on the plans, programmes and projects for the sustainable development of small island developing States that have been implemented in response to the Programme of Action, as well as those that are under implementation and those that are envisaged for implementation within five years of the date of the report;

11. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-first session, under the item entitled "Environment and sustainable development", the sub-item entitled "Implementation of the outcome of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States";

12. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-first session a report on action taken to implement the present resolution.

96th plenary meeting
20 December 1995

UNITED NATIONS **A**

General Assembly

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GENERAL

A/RES/50/117
16 February 1996

Fiftieth session
Agenda item 96 (f)

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[on the report of the Second Committee (A/50/618/Add.5)]

50/117. International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction

A

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 44/236 of 22 December 1989, 48/188 of 21 December 1993, 49/22 A of 2 December 1994 and 49/22 B of 20 December 1994,

Expressing its solidarity with the people and countries that suffer as a result of natural disasters,

Emphasizing once again the urgent need for concrete measures to reduce the vulnerability of societies to natural hazards, the loss of human lives and the heavy physical and economic damage that occur as a result of natural disasters, in particular in developing countries, small island States and land-locked countries,

Reiterating the validity of the conclusions of the first World Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction, held at Yokohama, Japan, from 23 to 27 May 1994, in particular with regard to its call for increased bilateral, subregional, regional and multilateral cooperation in the field of disaster prevention, preparedness and mitigation, 1/

Commending those countries, national and local institutions, organizations and associations that have adopted policies, allocated resources and initiated action programmes, including international assistance, for

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1/ See A/CONF.172/9, chap. I.

disaster reduction and, in this context, welcoming the participation of private companies and individuals,

Commending all countries and intergovernmental and regional organizations that have actively engaged in regional and subregional assessments of vulnerability to natural hazards and have consequently initiated regional and subregional cooperation in the field of disaster reduction, including the exchange of data and technology, as well as the development of joint administrative, technological and scientific approaches for applied disaster reduction,

Commending those organizations of the United Nations system and other international organizations, scientific associations and non-governmental organizations which, in accordance with decisions of their governing bodies, have incorporated the recommendations of the General Assembly relating to disaster reduction and those of the World Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction in their programmes of work, thus contributing towards effective progress in disaster reduction in their mandated responsibilities and respective fields of activity, including the allocation of budgetary resources for disaster reduction,

1. Takes note with appreciation of the report of the Secretary-General 2/ concerning the specific measures for the implementation of the Yokohama Strategy for a Safer World: Guidelines for Natural Disaster Prevention, Preparedness and Mitigation and its Plan of Action, and requests the secretariat of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction to continue to promote and monitor their translation into concrete activities, in close cooperation with all bodies comprising the International Framework of Action for the Decade, 3/ so as to ensure timely and effective implementation;

2. Commends those developing and least developed countries that have mobilized domestic resources for disaster reduction activities and have facilitated the effective implementation of such activities, and encourages all developing countries concerned to continue in this direction;

3. Recommends that all countries, with appropriate support, continue to study conventional and non-conventional ways and means of financing disaster reduction measures, both at the national level and with respect to subregional, regional and international technical cooperation;

4. Calls upon Member States, relevant intergovernmental bodies and all others involved in the Decade to participate actively in the financial and technical support of Decade activities, in order to ensure the implementation of the International Framework of Action for the Decade, in particular with a view to translating the Yokohama Strategy and the Plan of Action contained therein into concrete disaster reduction programmes and activities;

5. Requests the Commission on Sustainable Development to pay appropriate attention at its fourth session to the issue of disaster reduction

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2/ A/50/201-E/1995/74.

3/ See resolution 44/236, annex.

when considering the relevant chapters of Agenda 21 4/ and of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States; 5/

6. Welcomes the measures proposed by the Secretary-General to bring the International Framework of Action for the Decade into line with the Yokohama Strategy and its Plan of Action, in order to provide disaster reduction activities worldwide and regionally with authoritative and effective programme guidance so as to ensure stronger cohesion of disaster reduction programmes and the joint participation of concerned sectors in their implementation;

7. Notes the initiative for an informal mechanism between the secretariat of the Decade and Member States, intended to facilitate and support the promotion of Decade activities and the regular exchange of information between Governments, organizations of the United Nations system and other organizations;

8. Welcomes, in pursuance of its resolution 49/22 A, the restructuring of the Special High-Level Council and the Scientific and Technical Committee for the Decade so that for the second half of the Decade they will provide the necessary support to global, regional and national policy and strategy development, public awareness-building and resource mobilization, and at the same time provide links with the scientific community and support the national committees for the Decade and national authorities in their cooperative efforts to integrate disaster reduction programmes into national activities for sustainable development;

9. Endorses the decision of the Secretary-General to extend until the end of the Decade the mandate of the United Nations Steering Committee for the Decade, established in pursuance of General Assembly resolutions 42/169 of 11 December 1987 and 44/236;

10. Emphasizes that effective and efficient coordination and servicing of the above-mentioned components of the International Framework of Action for the Decade require a financially and structurally stable secretariat of the Decade, reporting to the Secretary-General through the Emergency Relief Coordinator;

11. Decides, in pursuance of its resolution 49/22 A, to convene a closing event of the Decade, through coordinated sectoral and cross-sectoral meetings at all levels, in order to facilitate the full integration of

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4/ Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992 (A/CONF.151/26/Rev.1 (Vol. I and Vol. I/Corr.1, Vol. II, Vol. III and Vol. III/Corr.1)) (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), vol. I: Resolutions Adopted by the Conference, resolution 1, annex II.

5/ Report of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Bridgetown, Barbados, 25 April-6 May 1994 (A/CONF.167/9 and Corr.1 and 2) (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.I.18 and corrigenda), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

disaster reduction into the substantive efforts for sustainable development and environmental protection by the year 2000;

12. Decides also that the secretariat of the Decade will serve as the substantive secretariat for the preparation of the closing event of the Decade, working with the full support of relevant bodies of the United Nations Secretariat and drawing on the contributions of the organizations of the United Nations system concerned, other international organizations and Governments;

13. Requests the Secretary-General to ensure the availability of resources for the preparatory process, including the necessary enhancement of the capacity of the secretariat, and to appeal for additional voluntary contributions to the Trust Fund for the Decade;

14. Also requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-first session, through the Economic and Social Council, a report on the implementation of the International Framework of Action for the Decade;

15. Further requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-first session a report containing proposals on how the distinct programme and coordination capability of the secretariat of the Decade might be enhanced so as to enable it to coordinate effectively the activities of the Decade and the integration of natural disaster reduction into the sustainable development process;

16. Decides to consider the question of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction at its fifty-first session, as a separate sub-item under environmental questions related to the environment and sustainable development.

96th plenary meeting
20 December 1995

B

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its resolutions 44/236 of 22 December 1989, 46/182 of 19 December 1991, 49/22 A of 2 December 1994 and 49/22 B of 20 December 1994,

Taking note of Economic and Social Council resolutions 1995/47 A and B of 27 July 1995,

Concerned about the continued threat posed by natural disasters and similar disasters with an adverse impact on vulnerable communities, including their environments, particularly in developing countries,

Concerned also about the continuing threat posed by natural disasters and similar disasters with an adverse impact on the environment,

Recalling the Yokohama Strategy for a Safer World: Guidelines for Natural Disaster Prevention, Preparedness, and Mitigation and its Plan of

Action, adopted by the World Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction on 27 May 1994, 6/

Taking into account already existing early-warning capacities within the United Nations system, in particular within the Department of Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat, the United Nations Environment Programme, the World Meteorological Organization, the World Health Organization and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations,

Conscious of the need to avoid duplication of work among United Nations bodies dealing with early-warning capacities,

Emphasizing that early warnings of impending natural disasters and similar disasters with an adverse impact on the environment, linked to effective disaster preparedness measures and their effective dissemination, using, in particular, telecommunications, including broadcast services, are key factors to successful disaster prevention and preparedness,

Reaffirming that sustained economic growth and sustainable development are essential for the prevention of and preparedness for natural disasters and similar disasters with an adverse impact on the environment and that special attention should be given to disaster prevention and preparedness by the Governments concerned as well as by the international community,

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on early-warning capacities of the United Nations system with regard to natural disasters and similar disasters with an adverse impact on the environment; 7/

2. Commends the secretariat of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction, as part of the Department of Humanitarian Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat, and all concerned agencies and organizations of the United Nations system for the constructive inter-agency approach they have applied, which has led to this initial overview and analysis of early-warning concepts, capacities and gaps and to proposals for improvements in coordination and capacity-building with regard to such disasters;

3. Requests the Scientific and Technical Committee of the Decade to continue, within the scope of its work on early-warning capabilities, to examine and study new scientific and experimental concepts and methodologies for accurate and timely short-term forecasting of earthquakes, other natural disasters and similar disasters with an adverse impact on the environment, with a view to making recommendations on their applicability and development in the context of international cooperation to improve preparedness for and minimize the risks of such disasters;

4. Takes note of the conclusions and proposals made by the Secretary-General in his report with respect to the improvement of early-warning capabilities, better international coordination in their use, and more effective and beneficial exchange of knowledge and technology;

6/ See A/CONF.172/9, chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

7/ A/50/526.

5. Invites the Secretary-General, in particular, to facilitate, within the existing International Framework of Action for the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction, 8/ an internationally concerted framework for improvements in early-warning capacities by developing a concrete proposal for an effective international mechanism on early warning, to include the transfer of technologies related to early warning to developing countries, under the auspices of the United Nations and as part of the implementation of the International Framework, the Yokohama Strategy for a Safer World and its Plan of Action;

6. Also invites the Secretary-General to take the steps necessary to make the early-warning data gathered under the United Nations auspices readily available to the decision makers concerned at the international, national, regional and subregional levels;

7. Encourages all Governments to undertake, with the full support of the United Nations system, regular reviews of early-warning requirements and capabilities at national and community levels, within the framework of the development of national disaster reduction policies in order to enhance protection of their national populations and assets;

8. Calls on the secretariat of the Decade to continue to facilitate a concerted international approach to improvements in early-warning capacities for natural disasters and similar disasters with an adverse impact on the environment, within the process leading towards the closing event of the Decade;

9. Recommends that donor countries give greater priority to disaster prevention, preparedness and mitigation in their assistance programmes and budgets, on either a bilateral or multilateral basis, including through increasing contributions to the Trust Fund for the Decade, and promote and facilitate the transfer of technologies related to early warning to developing countries within the framework of the implementation of the Yokohama Strategy and its Plan of Action;

10. Encourages improved efforts, in the context of international technical assistance and cooperation within the framework of the implementation of the Yokohama Strategy and its Plan of Action, towards facilitating the availability of appropriate technology and reliable data, along with the corresponding training, and access to network systems related to early warning, particularly to developing countries;

11. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session on progress made in the implementation of the present resolution.

96th plenary meeting
20 December 1995

8/ Resolution 44/236, annex.

UNITED NATIONS **A**

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/RES/50/118
16 February 1996

Fiftieth session
Agenda item 97

RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[on the report of the Second Committee (A/50/619)]

50/118. Cooperation between the United Nations and the Southern African Development Community

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its resolutions 37/248 of 21 December 1982, 38/160 of 19 December 1983, 39/215 of 18 December 1984, 40/195 of 17 December 1985, 42/181 of 11 December 1987, 44/221 of 22 December 1989, 46/160 of 19 December 1991 and 48/173 of 21 December 1993, in which, inter alia, it requested the Secretary-General to promote cooperation between the organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system and the Southern African Development Coordination Conference, and urged intensification of contacts in order to accelerate the achievement of the objectives of the Lusaka Declaration of 1 April 1980, by which the Conference was established, 1/

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General, 2/

Welcoming the strengthening of the Southern African Development Community 3/ through the admission of South Africa and Mauritius as member States,

Commending member States of the Community for demonstrating their support and commitment to deeper and more formal arrangements for cooperation within the new Community,

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1/ See A/38/493, annex I.

2/ A/50/664.

3/ Formerly, Southern African Development Coordination Conference.

Commending also the efforts made by the Community to implement its programme of action,

Reaffirming that the successful implementation of the development programmes of the Community can be achieved only if the Community has adequate resources at its disposal,

Noting that the effects of war, loss of life and destruction of economic and social infrastructure in southern Africa demand the continuation and strengthening of rehabilitation programmes to regenerate the economies of the countries of the region,

Noting with grave concern the recurrence of drought in the region and the increase of poverty as a result, especially in rural communities,

Recognizing the strengthening of democratic governance and other positive developments in the region, including the holding of elections and installation of a democratic Government in South Africa, and the restoration of democratic rule in Lesotho in September 1994, as well as the holding of multi-party elections in Malawi and recently in the United Republic of Tanzania,

Welcoming with satisfaction the reintegration of Walvis Bay and the offshore islands into Namibia, and noting the impact of Walvis Bay as a major harbour on regional economic cooperation,

Also noting that despite the positive developments in the political and military situation in Angola, the economic, social and humanitarian situation remains dire, and reaffirming both the importance of and the need for a continued and effective United Nations presence in promoting a negotiated settlement in Angola with a view to fostering the peace process,

Noting with satisfaction the successful implementation of the General Peace Agreement for Mozambique, 4/ which has created favourable conditions for the establishment of lasting peace, the enhancement of democracy, the promotion of national reconciliation, and the implementation of a programme of national reconstruction and development in Mozambique,

Recognizing the valuable and effective economic and financial contribution that some organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system have made to complement national and subregional efforts for the advancement of the process of democratization, rehabilitation and development in southern Africa,

Welcoming the outcome of recent United Nations conferences, in particular the Fourth World Conference on Women, 5/ and recognizing the important role that women play in development in the region,

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General, 2/ in which he describes progress made in the implementation of General Assembly resolutions

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4/ See S/24635 and Corr.1, annex.

5/ See A/CONF.177/20.

dealing with cooperation between the United Nations and the Southern African Development Community;

2. Commends the States Members of the United Nations and organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system that have maintained, enhanced and initiated development cooperation with the Community;

3. Calls upon the States Members of the United Nations and organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system that have not yet established contact and relationships with the Community to explore the possibility of doing so;

4. Commends also the members of the Community for the progress that has been achieved to date in implementing its programme of action, and encourages perseverance with those efforts;

5. Expresses appreciation to the international community for the financial, technical and material support given to the Community;

6. Renews its appeal to the international community to maintain current levels of, and increase, where appropriate, its financial, technical and material support to the Community in order to enable it to implement fully its programme of action and to meet the reconstruction and rehabilitation needs of the region;

7. Appeals to the international community and to relevant organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to extend appropriate assistance to the Community in order to enable it to advance further the process of regional economic integration;

8. Appeals to the United Nations, its related organs and the international community to assist the Community with appropriate resources to implement the programmes and decisions adopted by various United Nations world conferences, with specific emphasis on the enhancement of the role of women in the development process;

9. Welcomes the economic and political achievements and reforms undertaken within the Community, which are intended to address better the challenges of regional cooperation and integration in the 1990s and beyond;

10. Appeals to the international community to extend the needed assistance to the newly democratized South African nation to enable it to implement its reconstruction and development programme as speedily as possible;

11. Calls upon the United Nations to intensify its efforts to assist the Government of Angola and the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola in the rapid implementation of the Lusaka Protocol 6/ in all its aspects;

12. Expresses its appreciation for the substantial contributions of Member States, United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations to

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6/ See S/1994/1441.

meet the needs of the Angolan people, and encourages additional substantial contributions;

13. Calls upon the international community to continue to extend its support to the people of Mozambique in their efforts to consolidate their newfound peace and democracy based on national reconstruction and development in that country;

14. Reaffirms its appeal to the international community to continue rendering assistance to Namibia to enable it to implement its national development programmes;

15. Commends the Secretary-General and members of the international community for their timely response to the drought situation in southern Africa, which has averted famine in the region;

16. Appeals to the United Nations and the international community for continued assistance in addressing the drought situation in the southern African region, especially through strengthening the capacity of the Community in drought mitigation, drought monitoring, early warning and preparedness;

17. Invites the donor community and other cooperating partners to participate at a high level in the Annual Consultative Conference of the Southern African Development Community, to be held at Johannesburg on 1 and 2 February 1996;

18. Requests the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Executive Secretary of the Southern African Development Community, to continue to intensify contacts aimed at promoting and harmonizing cooperation between the United Nations and the Community;

19. Also requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session on the implementation of the present resolution.

96th plenary meeting
20 December 1995

UNITED NATIONS **A**

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/RES/50/119
16 February 1996

Fiftieth session
Agenda item 97

RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[on the report of the Second Committee (A/50/619)]

50/119. Economic and technical cooperation among developing countries and a United Nations conference on South-South cooperation

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its resolutions 33/134 of 19 December 1978, in which it endorsed the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, 1/ and 46/159 of 19 December 1991 on technical cooperation among developing countries, as well as its other relevant resolutions on economic and technical cooperation among developing countries,

Reaffirming also its resolution 49/96 of 19 December 1994 on a United Nations conference on South-South cooperation,

Recalling Economic and Social Council resolution 1992/41 of 30 July 1992, in which the Council called upon all parties in the development effort to make concerted, planned and vigorous endeavours to benefit from utilization of the capacities of developing countries by giving their full support and first consideration to the use of the modality of technical cooperation among developing countries,

Taking note of the decisions and recommendations contained in the Final Document of the Eleventh Conference of Heads of State or Government of the

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1/ Report of the United Nations Conference on Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, Buenos Aires, 30 August-12 September 1978 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.78.II.A.11 and corrigendum), chap. I.

Non-Aligned Countries, 2/ held at Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, from 18 to 20 October 1995,

Bearing in mind the Ministerial Declaration of the Group of 77, 3/ adopted at the nineteenth annual meeting of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Group of 77, held in New York on 29 September 1995, which emphasized the importance of South-South cooperation, particularly the convening of a United Nations conference on South-South cooperation no later than 1997,

Reaffirming that South-South cooperation constitutes an important element of international cooperation for development as well as an essential basis for national and collective self-reliance and a means of promoting the integration of developing countries into the world economy,

Reaffirming also that South-South cooperation is not a substitute for, but is complementary to, North-South cooperation,

Noting with satisfaction the increase in economic and technical cooperation among developing countries reported by both developing countries and the United Nations development system,

Recognizing the need for the international community to support the developing countries in optimizing opportunities for expanding South-South cooperation,

Welcoming the report on new directions for technical cooperation among developing countries, 4/ prepared in response to its resolution 49/96, whose recommendations were endorsed by the High-level Committee on the Review of Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries at its ninth session, 5/ and subsequently endorsed by the Economic and Social Council,

Noting with satisfaction the launching of the South Centre as an intergovernmental organization, and its important contribution to the promotion and strengthening of South-South cooperation,

Recognizing that recent advances in communications technology have created new opportunities for South-South cooperation,

Taking note of the report of the Intergovernmental Meeting of Experts on South-South Cooperation, 6/ convened by the Secretary-General in New York from 31 July to 4 August 1995, and of the reports of the Standing Committee on Economic Cooperation among Developing Countries of the United Nations

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2/ See A/50/752-S/1995/1035, annex III.

3/ A/50/518, annex.

4/ TCDC/9/3.

5/ See A/50/39, annex I, decision 9/2.

6/ A/AC.246/3.

Conference on Trade and Development 7/ and of the High-level Committee on the Review of Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries on the work of its ninth session, 8/ at which substantive issues were presented and practical modalities for strengthening South-South economic and technical cooperation at the global level were recommended,

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on the state of South-South cooperation 9/ and its supplement entitled State of South-South Cooperation: Statistical Pocket Book and Index of Cooperation Organizations, 10/ which provide a comprehensive and systematic overview and analysis of South-South cooperation worldwide and of United Nations system support for such cooperation;

2. Endorses the recommendations contained in the report on new directions for technical cooperation among developing countries, 4/ which among other things call for the adoption of a more strategic orientation for technical cooperation among developing countries focusing on priority issues, such as trade and investment, debt, the environment, poverty alleviation, production and employment, and macroeconomic policy coordination, as well as education, health, the transfer of technology and rural development, which are likely to have a major development impact on a large number of developing countries;

3. Welcomes the decision of the Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme and of the United Nations Population Fund to increase the allocation of resources for technical cooperation among developing countries during the next programming cycle of the United Nations Development Programme;

4. Calls upon all Governments and relevant United Nations organizations, including the multilateral financial institutions, to consider increasing allocations for economic and technical cooperation among developing countries and to identify new funding modalities to promote South-South cooperation such as triangular cooperation and private sector funding;

5. Invites the United Nations Development Programme to establish a voluntary trust fund for the promotion of South-South cooperation and invites all countries to contribute to the fund;

6. Calls upon the developing countries and their institutions to increase joint efforts in technology cooperation, broader technological development such as encompasses scientific and technological management capabilities and information networks that are demand-oriented and involve participation by users of technology or by those involved in the process of technological development, infrastructure and human resources development;

7/ TD/B/42(1)/7 and TD/B/CN.3/16.

8/ See A/50/39.

9/ A/50/340 and Add.1.

10/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.II.D.18.

7. Welcomes the decision of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to address at its ninth session the issue of new approaches to South-South economic cooperation, as well as the role and potential impact on development of regional economic groupings in the globalizing and liberalizing world economy;

8. Invites, in this context, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, at its ninth session, to be held in South Africa, to consider strengthening economic and technical cooperation among developing countries as a strategy for promoting growth and development and for ensuring the effective integration of the developing countries into the world economy, and to formulate concrete policy recommendations in this regard;

9. Requests the Secretary-General to present to the General Assembly, on a biennial basis, a report entitled "State of South-South cooperation" containing a comprehensive overview and analysis of South-South economic and technical cooperation worldwide and international support in this regard, including quantitative data and indicators on all aspects of South-South cooperation as well as recommendations for strengthening such cooperation, keeping in view the importance of the proposal to convene a United Nations conference on South-South cooperation;

10. Invites all other organs, organizations and agencies of the United Nations system, in particular the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the regional commissions, to provide analytical and empirical material for the preparation of the above-mentioned report;

11. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-second session the sub-item entitled "Economic and technical cooperation among developing countries".

96th plenary meeting
20 December 1995

UNITED NATIONS **A**

General Assembly

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Fiftieth session
Agenda item 97

RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[on the report of the Second Committee (A/50/619)]

50/120. Triennial policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 44/211 of 22 December 1989 and 47/199 of 22 December 1992, as well as other relevant resolutions,

Reaffirming that operational activities for development within the United Nations system have a critical and unique role to play in enabling developing countries to continue to take a lead role in the management of their own development process,

Bearing in mind that the effectiveness of operational activities should be measured by their impact on the sustained economic growth and sustainable development of developing countries,

Stressing that national plans and priorities constitute the only viable frame of reference for the national programming of operational activities for development within the United Nations system, and that programmes should be based on such development plans and priorities, and should therefore be country-driven,

Also stressing in that context the need to take into account the outcomes and commitments of relevant United Nations conferences, as well as the individual mandates and complementarities of the organizations and bodies of the United Nations development system, bearing in mind the need to avoid duplication,

Further stressing that the fundamental characteristics of the operational activities of the United Nations system should be, inter alia, their universal, voluntary and grant nature, their neutrality and their

multilateralism, as well as their ability to respond to the needs of developing countries in a flexible manner, and that the operational activities of the United Nations system are carried out for the benefit of the developing countries, at the request of those countries and in accordance with their own policies and priorities for development,

Recognizing the urgent and specific needs of the low-income countries, in particular the least developed countries,

Noting the progress that has been achieved in a number of areas in the implementation of its resolution 47/199, while stressing the need for individual organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, as well as coordination mechanisms of the United Nations system, to continue to work towards the full and coordinated implementation of that resolution,

Also recognizing that the United Nations development system should take into account the specific needs and requirements of the countries with economies in transition and other recipient countries,

Recalling that the General Assembly is the highest intergovernmental mechanism for the formulation and appraisal of policy matters relating to the economic, social and related fields, in accordance with Chapter IX of the Charter of the United Nations, and that the functions and powers of the Economic and Social Council are provided for in Chapters IX and X of the Charter and are elaborated in relevant Assembly resolutions, including resolutions 45/264 of 13 May 1991 and 48/162 of 20 December 1993, in which the Assembly defined the relationship between the Assembly, the Council and the executive boards of the funds and programmes, in particular the Council function of overall guidance and coordination of the operational activities for development of the United Nations system,

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on the triennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system 1/ and welcomes its user-friendly format;

2. Reaffirms its resolution 47/199 and stresses the need to implement fully all the elements of that resolution in a coherent manner, keeping in mind their interlinkages;

3. Endorses Economic and Social Council resolution 1995/51 of 28 July 1995 on overall guidance on operational activities for development to the United Nations funds and programmes;

4. Notes with regret that, although significant progress has already been made on the restructuring and rationalization of the governance and functioning of the United Nations development funds and programmes, there has not been, as part of the overall reform process, any substantial increase in resources for operational activities for development on a predictable, continuous and assured basis, nor have the consultations on prospective new modalities for financing reached a conclusion;

5. Strongly reaffirms that the efficiency, effectiveness and impact of the operational activities of the United Nations system must be enhanced

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1/ A/50/202-E/1995/76.

by, inter alia, a substantial increase in their funding on a predictable, continuous and assured basis, commensurate with the increasing needs of developing countries, as well as through the full implementation of resolutions 47/199 and 48/162;

6. Urges developed countries, in particular those countries whose overall performance is not commensurate with their capacity, taking into account established official development assistance targets, including targets established at the Second United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries 2/ and their current levels of contribution, to increase substantially their official development assistance, including contributions to the operational activities of the United Nations system;

7. Notes with appreciation the sustained contributions of many donors and recipient countries to the operational activities for development in a spirit of partnership;

8. Expresses serious concern at the persistent insufficiency of resources for the operational development activities of the United Nations, in particular the decline in contributions to core resources;

9. Stresses the need for a substantial increase in resources for operational activities for development on a predictable, continuous and assured basis, commensurate with the increasing needs of developing countries;

10. Decides that intensified consultations and negotiations on prospective new specific modalities for financing operational activities for development on a predictable, continuous and assured basis, in accordance with paragraphs 31 to 34 of annex I to resolution 48/162 on the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic and social fields, should lead to an agreed outcome in the framework of the review process of that resolution;

11. Reaffirms the need for priority allocation of scarce grant resources to programmes and projects in low-income countries, particularly the least developed countries;

12. Emphasizes that recipient Governments have the primary responsibility for coordinating, on the basis of national strategies and priorities, all types of external assistance, including that provided by multilateral organizations, in order to integrate effectively such assistance into their development process;

13. Urges the members of the United Nations development system to continue to develop an agreed division of responsibility, in accordance with their respective mandates, under the coordination of Governments as well as greater complementarity in their respective roles at the field level in response to the needs and priorities of recipient countries;

14. Stresses the need for the United Nations system to take full account of the interests and concerns of all recipient countries, and, in that context, stresses the need for it to give serious consideration to ways of

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2/ See Report of the Second United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, Paris, 3-14 September 1990 (A/CONF.147/18), part one.

ensuring a more coherent response by the system to the national plans and priorities of recipient Governments;

15. Also stresses the need for all organizations of the United Nations development system to focus their efforts at the field level on priority areas, in accordance with the priorities identified by recipient countries and the mandates, mission statements and relevant decisions of their governing bodies, in order to avoid duplication and enhance the complementarity and impact of their work;

16. Further stresses that, in the context of the reform of the United Nations Secretariat and the restructuring and revitalization of the intergovernmental process, the mandates of the separate sectoral and specialized entities, funds, programmes and specialized agencies should be respected and enhanced, taking into account their complementarities;

17. Reaffirms that the country strategy note remains a voluntary initiative of recipient countries that should be formulated by interested recipient countries in accordance with their development plans and priorities, with the assistance of and in cooperation with the United Nations system under the leadership of the resident coordinator, in all recipient countries where the Government so decides;

18. Decides that, where in place, the country strategy note should be the common framework for country programmes of United Nations system organizations and for programming, monitoring and evaluating United Nations system activities in such countries, and that the country strategy note should outline the United Nations system contribution, including, where appropriate, an indication of the level of resources needed to meet the requirements therein;

19. Requests the Secretary-General, in consultation with interested Member States and in order to be able to respond more effectively to the needs of recipient countries, to undertake further work on:

(a) Broad common guidelines, with the aim of promoting greater consistency and clarity in the United Nations system contribution to country strategy notes;

(b) Enhancing its operational relevance by ensuring that the development of individual country programmes takes fully into account the framework provided by the country strategy note, where it exists, so as to promote an agreed division of responsibility within the United Nations system in accordance with paragraph 13 of the present resolution;

(c) Promoting the exchange of experiences gained in producing country strategy notes among recipient countries;

20. Requests the Secretary-General, in consultation with Member States and United Nations organizations, to consider ways of enhancing the coordination of United Nations development activities at the regional and subregional levels, including ways of enhancing the role of the regional commissions and of promoting the national ownership of regional programmes;

21. Stresses that the United Nations system, where requested by interested Governments, should support the establishment of the forums and

mechanisms that facilitate and guide policy dialogue among the partners in the development process, primarily in order to ensure that their programmes are integrated with national plans and strategies;

22. Decides that the objective of capacity-building and its sustainability should continue to be an essential part of the operational activities of the United Nations system at the country level, with the aim of integrating their activities and providing support to efforts to strengthen national capacities in the fields of, inter alia, policy and programme formulation, development management, planning, implementation, coordination, monitoring and review;

23. Recalls the importance of accountability as well as of simplifying reporting requirements, which should be in line with national systems;

24. Decides that, where Governments so desire, the United Nations system should be ready to engage in providing an enabling environment to strengthen the capacity of civil societies and national non-governmental organizations that are involved in development activities, in accordance with national priorities;

25. Also decides that the United Nations system should use, to the fullest extent possible, available national expertise and indigenous technologies;

26. Calls for further work on the development of common guidelines at the field level for the recruitment, training and remuneration of national project personnel, including national consultants in the formulation and implementation of development projects and programmes supported by the United Nations development system in order to enhance the coherence of the system;

27. Decides that the United Nations development system should continue to work on promoting a common understanding and the operationalization of capacity-building concepts, as well as on ways of enhancing the sustainability of capacity-building;

28. Also decides that the United Nations development system should continue to work on improving the definition and guidelines for national execution and the programme approach;

29. Requests the organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to undertake efforts in the context of national execution and capacity-building to enhance the absorptive capacity in developing countries, in particular in the least developed countries and Africa, and to assist similar efforts undertaken by those countries;

30. Stresses the important role of the specialized agencies of the United Nations system in transferring and facilitating the necessary technical and substantive expertise to support the national execution of United Nations-funded programmes and projects, and invites the Secretary-General, in collaboration with the heads of specialized agencies, to inform the Economic and Social Council of the measures taken by those specialized agencies in response to General Assembly resolution 47/199, in particular as regards national execution;

31. Also stresses that the governing bodies of all funds, programmes and specialized agencies should make further progress in order to ensure that the prescribed limits on field-level authority for cancelling, modifying and adding activities within approved programmes and shifting resources within approved budget lines of individual components of a programme and among components of a programme, with the approval of national authorities, should be expanded to become equal and uniform, to the maximum extent possible, in the context of enhanced accountability;

32. Recognizes that monitoring and evaluation processes, including joint evaluations, should continue to be nationally led, and that the United Nations system should therefore support, where requested by Governments, the strengthening of national evaluation capacities;

33. Also recognizes in that context the need to strengthen capacities to perform both effective programme, project and financial monitoring and impact evaluations of operational activities funded by the United Nations;

34. Requests the United Nations system to strengthen its efforts, in consultation with recipient countries, to ensure that:

(a) Monitoring is carried out in a way that ensures the timely identification of problems and effective remedial action;

(b) Organizations of the United Nations system, operating at the country level, coordinate their periodic programme reviews and evaluations;

(c) The lessons learned from both monitoring and evaluation exercises are systematically applied into programming processes at the operational level, and that responsibility for such application is clearly assigned;

(d) Evaluation criteria are built into all projects and programmes at their design stage, bearing in mind the need for adequate training;

35. Underlines the importance of promoting, under the leadership of Governments, greater collaboration on issues relating to evaluation among recipient Governments, the United Nations development system and relevant development partners at the country level;

36. Requests the Secretary-General to make the resident coordinator system more participatory in its functioning at the field level by, inter alia, making greater use of thematic groups and adopting a more consultative approach;

37. Also requests the Secretary-General to:

(a) Identify ways of encouraging wider participation in the pool of candidates for resident coordinator positions;

(b) Promote greater governmental involvement in the selection process for resident coordinators, in particular by ensuring that national Governments are consulted before the post profile for resident coordinators is passed to the Joint Consultative Group on Policies, and keeping up to date the selection criteria for resident coordinators and, through the respective executive heads, for senior representatives of United Nations agencies in the field, bearing in mind the specific circumstances of individual countries;

(c) Develop common guidelines for staff performance appraisal for the funds and programmes, including ways of assessing the contribution of staff members to United Nations system coordination;

(d) Urge all members of the United Nations development system to give clear guidance and direction to their country representatives to promote the effective functioning of the resident coordinator system;

(e) Promote training in the areas of team-building and interpersonal skills;

38. Invites the United Nations system, including the funds and programmes, specialized agencies and the Secretariat, to provide, as appropriate, support to the resident coordinator system;

39. Reaffirms that resident coordinators, in full consultation with national Governments, should facilitate a coherent and coordinated United Nations follow-up to major international conferences at the field level;

40. Decides that in order to promote coordination and a better division of labour resident coordinators should, at an early stage of formulation, be informed of planned programme activities of the United Nations agencies, funds, programmes and bodies;

41. Also decides that the field-level committees organized by the United Nations system country team, which were established in accordance with paragraph 40 of General Assembly resolution 47/199, should review substantive activities - including draft country programmes, sectoral programmes and projects - prior to their approval by individual organizations, and should exchange experience acquired, on the understanding that the result of the work of the review committee should be submitted to national Governments for final approval through the national focal points;

42. Reaffirms the need to enhance the responsibility and authority of resident coordinators for the planning and coordination of programmes, as well as to allow them to propose, in full consultation with Governments, to the heads of the funds, programmes and specialized agencies, the amendment of country programmes and major projects and programmes, where required, in order to bring them into line with country strategy notes;

43. Requests the Secretary-General and the United Nations development system to take the need for gender balance fully into account when making appointments, including at the senior level and in the field, in accordance with relevant General Assembly resolutions;

44. Requests the Joint Consultative Group on Policies and, to the maximum extent possible, the specialized agencies, to raise substantially the target for achieving common premises on the basis of cost-benefit analysis and avoiding an increased burden on host countries;

45. Calls for further simplification and harmonization of rules of procedure used by the United Nations development system in its operational activities, in particular by the promotion of greater consistency in the presentation of budgets at the headquarters level, as well as in sharing administrative systems and services in the field, where possible, and in developing common databases, in consultation with national Governments;

46. Urges the members of the United Nations development system to adopt a more collaborative approach in preparing reports at all levels;

47. Requests the Secretary-General to promote the creation or further development of common guidelines on procedures relating to, inter alia, programme components and project formulation, appraisal, implementation, monitoring, evaluation and administration, in fulfilment of paragraph 33 of General Assembly resolution 47/199;

48. Takes note of Economic and Social Council resolution 1995/50 of 28 July 1995, in which the Council decided that the high-level meeting of the operational activities segment of its substantive session of 1996 should focus on strengthening collaboration between the United Nations development system and the Bretton Woods institutions in the area of social and economic development at all levels, including the field level;

49. Takes note of the mission statement of the World Food Programme and the decision of the executive boards of the United Nations Development Programme/United Nations Population Fund and of the United Nations Children's Fund to establish mission statements for their respective organizations;

50. Emphasizes the importance of disseminating the experience of effective and efficient cooperation with the United Nations development system, inter alia, through interregional projects of technical cooperation, and urges the United Nations system to give support to such activities;

51. Calls upon the United Nations system, in implementing the present resolution, to bear in mind the specific requirements of the continuum from humanitarian assistance through rehabilitation to development;

52. Requests the Secretary-General, after consultations with the funds, programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations system, to present to the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 1996 an appropriate management process containing clear guidelines, targets, benchmarks and time-frames for the full implementation of the present resolution;

53. Invites the Economic and Social Council, during the operational activities segment of its substantive sessions of 1996 and 1997, to examine the operational activities of the United Nations system with a view to ensuring the full implementation of the present resolution;

54. Also invites the Economic and Social Council, at its substantive session of 1996, to consider, inter alia, the issues of harmonization and administrative services, common premises and monitoring and evaluation, and, at its substantive session of 1997, to consider, inter alia, capacity-building, field and regional-level coordination, and resources, on the basis of progress reports by the Secretary-General, including appropriate recommendations;

55. Reaffirms that the governing bodies of the funds, programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations system should take appropriate action for the full implementation of the present resolution, and requests the executive heads of those funds, programmes and specialized agencies, bearing in mind paragraph 46 of the present resolution, to submit a yearly progress report to their governing bodies on measures taken and envisaged for the

implementation of the present resolution, as well as appropriate recommendations;

56. Decides that, as an integral part of the next comprehensive triennial policy review, there should be, in consultation with Member States, an evaluation of the impact of operational activities for development, and requests the Secretary-General to submit to the Economic and Social Council at its substantive sessions of 1996 and 1997 information on progress in that regard;

57. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session, through the Economic and Social Council, a comprehensive analysis of the implementation of the present resolution in the context of the triennial policy review, and to make appropriate recommendations.

96th plenary meeting
20 December 1995